The Journal

OF THE

Jamaica Agricultural Society.

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BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.

THE usual monthly meeting of the Board of Management of the Jamaica Agricultural Society was held at the office of the Society, No. 11 *North Parade, on Thursday, 20th May, 1909*, at 11.40 a.m. Present : His Excellency, Sir Sydney Olivier, K.C.M.G., presiding, the Hons. Dr. Pringle, L. J. Bertram, Geo. McGrath, His Lordship Bishop Collins, Messrs. D. Campbell, R. Craig, C. A. T. Fursdon, A. C. L. Martin, William Harris, Acting Director of Agriculture, and the Secretary, Jno. Barclay.

Apologies for absence were read from His Grace the Archbishop, Messrs. A. W. Douet, and J. R. Williams, and Hon. R. P. Simmonds.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been printed and circulated were taken as read and confirmed.

Mr. Craig moved that the Hon. P. C. Cork, Colonial Secretary, be elected a member of the Board in place of the late Hon. H. C. Bourne. Dr. Pringle seconded and this was agreed to.

Leave of Absence. The Secretary read letter from the Colonial Secretary, No. 4605/4137, of date 12th instant, intimating that Hon. H. H. Cousins, Director of Agriculture and Island Chemist, had been granted five months leave of absence, and the following acting appointments had been made during his absence :—Mr. William Harris, as Director of Agriculture ; Mr. E. J. Wortley, as Superintendent of Public Gardens, Mr. S. F. Ashby, as Island Chemist.

Mr. A. W. Douet and Mr. E. A. H. Haggart intimated that they would be absent from the island for six months and three months respectively.

Matters arising out of Minutes.—Live Stock Committee. (a) The Secretary submitted report which he had circulated amongst the members of the Live Stock Committee, together with their remarks dealing with the disposal of the money at the credit of the bulls account. This showed that there was the sum of £13 8s. 3d. still at the credit of the Live Stock Premiums account from the sale of the first bulls presented to the Society, and a balance of £10 10s. 7d. left from the sale of the roan Shorthorn bull after paying all the expenses on all the bulls ; making a total of £23 18s. 10d. still to util-

se of the Farm School, and the King's Hereford bull stationed in St. Ann. After discussion, it was resolved on the motion of Mr. Martin, seconded by Mr. McGrath, to offer premiums for importations as follows :—

One premium of £10 on Shorthorn, Devon or Red Poll bulls.

Two premiums of £3 each for rams of milch breeds of goats.

Two premiums of £3 each for pure-bred boars of Poland China, Berkshire and Essex breeds of pigs.

The same rules as in the former premium scheme to hold good, *i.e.*, premiums would be granted to the best animals of the breeds mentioned, imported during this financial year. This was agreed to.

Instructors. (b) The Secretary read the report of the meeting of the Instructors' Committee held on the 5th May, called at the request of the Director of Agriculture as Chairman, by telegram. Mr. Craig objected to receiving this report. He said that the previous Board meeting had issued certain directions which ought to be carried through, and should not be overturned by a meeting of the Committee called at too short notice for members interested to attend. He moved that no new Instructors should be appointed until advertised for by the Secretary. Mr. McGrath seconded this, and it was carried by four votes to three.

A letter from Mr. Palache *re* proposals of the meeting of the Instructors' Committee referred to was submitted, saying that it would be bad policy to confine him to the district of South Manchester under the present circumstances, and to throw over all the valuable work already done in Northern Manchester and Northern St. Elizabeth.

After discussion, the Chairman said he adhered to his view expressed at the previous meeting. He moved : "That special provision be made for an assistant Instructor to be appointed in the drought-stricken district of South Manchester and Southern St. Elizabeth." Mr. Craig seconded and this was agreed to.

The Chairman said he would ask the Legislative Council to make provision for this in their vote for the relief of South Manchester.

It was agreed to refer the following matters back to the Instructors' Committee :—(1) The matter of Mr. Hirst's duties as referred to in the Committee's report. (2) The question of additional travelling allowance to Mr. Palache.

Letters from C. S. O. re Foul Brood. (a) The Secretary submitted letter from the C. S. O. No. 4807/5903, of date 11th instant, authorising the publication of a certificate by the Director of Agriculture, certifying that the disease of bees known as Foul Brood, was not known in Jamaica, such certificates to be supplied to exporters of honey.

Re South Manchester. (b) No. 5003/6106, of date 14th instant, forwarding a copy of a communication addressed by the Secretary of the South Manchester Agricultural Society to the Director of Agri-

culture, making certain recommendations to be carried out in the district. As regards Nos. (2) and (7) these were left over for action by the Government. As regards (1) the Manchester Commission had already recommended the establishment of four central experiment plots at a total cost of £30, and the Society had agreed to carry out experiments on settlers' own lands at a total cost of £25. That No. 3 *re* Improvement of Orange Trade, was being done, and No. 5 *re* special Instructor for the district, had already been acted upon.

Re Contagious Diseases Animals Law. (c) No. 4926 4729, of date 14th instant, enclosing copy of Bill entitled "Contagious Diseases Animals Law of 1909." The Secretary was instructed to publish this in the JOURNAL.

Secretary's Reports. The Secretary submitted the following reports :

(a) Bog Walk Show ;(b) Brown's Town Show ; (c) Cambridge Show ; (d) Visit to Clarendon, etc., which were directed to be published in the JOURNAL if possible.

Instructors. Instructors' Reports and Itineraries were submitted :—(a) Mr. Cradwick ; (b) Mr. Palache ; (c) Mr. Arnett ; (d) Mr. Hirst ; (e) Mr. Briscoe ; (f) Mr. Mennell.

These were directed to be circulated round the Instructors' Committee.

Application for leave of absence from Mr. Arnett for the month of July, was submitted and granted.

Shows. The following applications for grants to shows were submitted :—(a) St. Margaret's Bay ; (b) Darliston.

These were granted under the usual conditions governing shows.

New Members. The following new members were elected :—Colq. A. S. Hinshelwood, Manchioneal ; J. M. Vaughan, Bedford, England ; Chas. G. Farquharson, Black River ; Eustace Bailey, Annotto Bay ; Dr. A. W. Haines, Cleveland, U.S.A.

The meeting adjourned till Thursday, 17th June, 1909, at 11.40 a.m.

CASSAVA FARINE.

CASSAVA has been introduced into the famine districts of India chiefly by the efforts of the Salvation Army. It is stated that the district of Travancore has not suffered lately from famine, but formerly it was subject to famine and scarcity until cassava was introduced, and this has proved a splendid famine resister. In India the large tuberous roots are boiled, sliced and sun-dried and made into a flour, which can be either eaten alone or mixed with another flour, according to the tastes and resources of the family. Another advantage of the cassava in drought-stricken districts is that it does not need to be harvested like grain, but it can be left in the ground for months without spoiling. In this sun-dried form it can be kept

Now here we read of cassava being grown to save people from drought and famine in India, and it has already proved itself a benefactor in one district. Our experiences of drought here, bad as they have been in St. Elizabeth and South Manchester and St. John's, are as nothing compared to the droughts experienced in parts of India. Cassava is grown in many districts in Jamaica largely. It will keep in the ground and grow all the while through the worst drought, it can be kept also in the form of slices sun-dried, to be beaten into flour at any convenient time, or it can be made immediately into one of the finest meals amongst our farinaceous foods, in the form of farine, which is both tasty and nutritious. There is not the slightest reason whatever with such soil and climate as St. Elizabeth has, in spite of dry weather, for there to be such distress as there has been in our experience twice within a period of ten years. We wonder who has proved correct—the Agricultural Society in its advocacy of cassava and farine, and its efforts to make the storing of food a matter of economy, 10 years ago—or the many sneerers at these efforts when they were made. We could never understand the minds of those who so often stated that the idea of using cassava-farine as a staple food was all "foolery," "tommy-rot," and all the rest of it, while we import farinaceous foods made from wheat, oats, barley, etc., when farine is in general use throughout Central and South America, was in actual use here before any of the present generation was born, and at the time of our efforts, was being used with good results at the Girls' Reformatory at Stony Hill and in some households. When tried at the Penitentiary, the prisoners expressed the opinion that they would rather have cornmeal, yet many of these people came no doubt from the very districts where they had been partly brought up on cassava. It was really a curious state of affairs, that prisoners should have their likes so much considered. Farine was not of course then as cheap as cornmeal, simply because it had been made experimentally by the Society, but it could have been made cheaper. The percentage of meal to be made per acre of cassava is greater than the percentage of products to be derived from an acre of corn.

In dry districts we need very little solution of the food problem ; there can be plenty of food at all times. What we need to try to overcome is the habit of utter thriftlessness, lack of foresight, and the habit of depending on help when they get into difficulties through any untoward circumstances, particularly drought. We are of the same opinion now as we were then, that the Agricultural Society through its propaganda, and local Agricultural Societies, heartily backed by ministers of religion and teachers in schools (as we are glad to say our efforts are well backed now), and thinking people in general, will solve the problem,—if there be any—of preventing distress through drought at any time.

Cassava is the greatest among all our food crops. Cassava is

CORN AND OATS AS HORSE FEED.

A COMPARISON of corn and oats as food for farm work horses, has been made at the Ohio Experiment Station, Wooster, and the conclusions reached are displayed in Bulletin No. 25 of that station. The horses used in the first 48 weeks of the experiment were six mature grade Percheron geldings used for general farm and team work on the station farm and not differing materially from many other horses engaged in similar labour in Ohio agriculture. They constituted a fairly uniform lot with no great differences of conformation. In order to secure as accurate data as possible one horse in each team was fed oats and the other corn. Following are the conclusions reached, as summarized in the bulletin already numbered:—

"While the work reported in this bulletin has not been conducted for a sufficient length of time nor with enough animals to justify any very comprehensive statements, yet it seems that some facts have been pretty well established. The work is being continued, and it is hoped that the cumulative effects, if any result, of the long continued use of grain rations made up exclusively of corn and of oats may be determined. The following statements, based upon the work done thus far, seem to be warranted by the data presented heretofore. It must be understood that the horses were mature geldings and that mixed clover and timothy hay was fed.

"The corn-fed horses endured hard work during hot weather as well as did the oats-fed horses.

"The use of corn to the exclusion of other grain for a period of 48 weeks was not detrimental to the health of work horses.

"The use of corn for work horses did not induce laziness and lack of endurance. Neither did the use of oats induce increased spirit and endurance.

"When mixed (clover and timothy) hay was fed to mature geldings at general farm work, ear-corn was practically as efficient, pound for pound, as oats.

"On the basis of the results of this experiment and statistical records of farm values of grains, corn has, since 1866, been cheaper than oats as a grain feed for work horses.

"The drop in weight of the corn-fed horses, coincident with the beginning of the use of shelled corn, indicates that ear-corn is to be preferred above shelled corn for work horses.

"Farm animals should be fed according to their needs. Their needs depend, of course, upon the product that they yield. Work horses are kept for applying energy and should be supplied with feeds that will furnish the required energy at the least possible cost, all things considered.

"There is a wide difference in the efficiency of horses in utilizing feed. This is well illustrated by the record of the horse Tom used in this experiment. There is an individuality in work ho as well as in other farm animals. Horses that are notably hard

keep in good condition should be replaced by ones that may be maintained at less cost.

"The data presented do not prove that, for use with pure timothy hay, ear-corn is as efficient, pound for pound, as oats. Neither is any evidence at hand to indicate that a grain ration made up exclusively of corn is suitable for brood mares with foal or in milk, or for young, growing horses.

"When the weights of the horses for the year previous to the experiment are compared with the weights securèd during the experiment, it is seen that the exclusive use of either corn or oats has not had any bad effect upon the horses. There is no positive proof, however, that a mixed ration would not be more efficient than one made up exclusively of corn or of oats. This experiment does show, nevertheless, that corn is a valuable feed for work horses and should be given a large place in their rations, whenever market conditions warrant its use

"It is obvious that feeds for work horses should be palatable, efficient and economical. As far as palatableness is concerned, corn seems, in the experience of this station, to have a slight advantage over oats, although this will depend to a considerable extent upon the individnal appetite. The results obtained thus far in the experiment reported in the bulletin indicate that corn is an efficient feed for work horses. The bulk of an amount of ear-corn equal in feeding value to the usual amount of oats is small—so small that a casual observation might lead one to believe that too little corn was being used. As regards economy, ear-corn is usually cheaper per pound than oats, while this experiment indicates that ear-corn and oats are worth approximately the same per pound for feeding under the conditions stated previously.

"Further work along this line with additional horses is now under way, and will be reported later."

[It is usually supposed that oats make a better feed for horses than corn, only the latter being cheaper and more readily obtainable, is usually accounted good enough. The foregoing results of experiments in feeding it must be borne in mind, were carried out on "work" horses, *i.e.*, being horses used for slow but heavy work in waggons, and ploughs. The results might not be the same for fast or prolonged work in riding or driving.

Our country corn is richer than American corn in protein, and should therefore give still better results in practice than oats.

Most good horse masters prefer an admixture of good oats and ground country corn as a feed.

Experiences on this subject would be welcome.—Ed.]

Laundry.—To obtain an excellent whiteness of your laundry make a mixture of two parts of strong alcohol and one part of pure and clear oil of turpentine and add of this mixture two tablespoonfuls to every fifty quarts of blued water. This causes the laundry to bleach during drying. The undiluted part of the mixture can be preserved for a long time, and in this condition it may be used to remove obdurate stains of grease and resin.

COTTON.

Although opinions are very divided as to the probability of cotton-growing becoming a success in Jamaica, and strong opinions have been expressed against money being spent in trying to develop such an industry, yet we have not given up hope that a substantial industry can yet be made in Jamaica. Last year the results were stated to be so unfavourable that they were quoted as an argument against cotton growing. We pointed out that the results, because of drought, were a half crop, while in the same districts there was less than a half crop of cane, or no cane whatever—fields burnt completely out; the small settlers had not even cassava, or congo peas, yet they had half crops of cotton which we marketed for some of them. This was by no means unfavourable. This year we are glad to see that the crops are about three-fourths of what is stated to be a full crop, and in one case at least, there is more than an average full crop. Mr. Ronaldson at Springfield, Vere, has taken in an average of 620lbs. of seed cotton per acre from a cultivation of 10 acres, Mr. Eric Anderson at the Cottage, Hayes, Vere, has already taken 13,665lbs. of seed cotton from cotton planted through sisal hemp, and although the acreage under cotton in this way cannot be accurate, it is not equal to more than 15 acres, but if we put it at 20 acres the return is still high. Mr. Watson at New Yarmouth, has also had very good crops, and the cotton seems extra good. A few small settlers in Vere who have grown cotton have had good crops also, yet no one could call the seasons favourable ; the drought still continues.

Cotton cultivation has a great many advantages ; its disadvantages are its liability to insect pests. It stands drought, it supplies light and profitable labour for women and children ; as they are paid at the rate of 1d. for picking 3lbs., they can make 1/- a day, while the ordinary wage for women and children in the field is 6d. a day, they are paid by results, and the best pickers make the most money.

The Society is prepared to carry through small experiments on the dry coast line of Trelawny and St. Ann, and in the plains of St. Elizabeth, beginning August, and all those interested in the industry should approach the Instructor for the district or write us with a view of getting selected plots started on small cultivators' own lands.

TETANUS OR "LOCKJAW."

The Central Agricultural Station of Cuba has recently issued a small pamphlet (*Circular No. 31*), written by two officials of the Department of Animal Industry in the island, which deals with the disease of tetanus or 'lockjaw,' as it is popularly termed.

It is stated that tetanus (the bacillus or causative organism of which is wide-spread, and found in temperate as well as tropical climates) is a very common disease in Cuba, and causes serious losses

of horses and mules. The cause, manner of infection, period of incubation, symptoms, and methods of treatment of the disorder, are all discussed in simple language in the above-mentioned pamphlet. The following summary of information on the subject appears at the end :—

Tetanus or 'lockjaw' is a germ disease that is common to horses and mules. It also attacks man.

The disease is usually caused by the germs getting in a wound. The soil about stables and corrals that is contaminated with animal excretions is liable to contain the germs of tetanus.

The symptoms of tetanus are contraction of the muscles that makes movement difficult or impossible.

Tetanus can usually be prevented by injecting a bottle (30 grammes) of veterinary antitetanic serum as soon as the wound is discovered, or before a surgical operation.

Many cases of tetanus can be cured by injecting 30 grammes of veterinary antitetanic serum. This should be followed in twelve hours with another dose, and then one dose every twenty-four hours until the animal improves. In the absence of antitetanic serum, or in conjunction with it, inject hypodermically, 5 grammes every six hours for the first two days, of a solution of 25 grammes pure carbolic acid, 25 grammes glycerine, and 50 grammes distilled water. After the first two days inject 5 grammes every twelve hours.

Clean the wound twice daily and apply thoroughly a solution of 5 grammes of pure carbolic acid dissolved in 100 grammes of water. Give the animal soft laxative food and all the fresh water it can drink. Keep the animal quiet in a clean place and do not give medicines by the mouth or nose.—*Agricultural News.*

[We have seen as many as five cases of true lockjaw in mules and horses under treatment at one time in Mr. Tavares' veterinary stables here, and every case recovered. The disease is comparatively common among horsekind, more especially in the city. The public are far too careless in flinging nails about the streets and roads.

Lately we saw a man at the door of a country store, patching up an old packing case. He took out the old nails and flung them out on the road, to the great, almost certain danger of horsekind passing.

Whenever a horse picks up a nail in its foot, get whatever is most handy, jeyes, kerosene, turpentine—clean around the nail, pull it out gently, and pour the fluid in the hole,—stop hole with a piece of cotton, or fibre of any kind until you get home. Then clean the foot, cutting into the little hole if necessary to make it large enough to get treatment of it. Do not be afraid to cut a large hole.

In travelling, especially at night, antiseptics cannot always be got. Part of the outfit should be a small phial of permanganate of potash, which is in the form of a powder. This added to water we have used at a push dew from the vegetation close by, or even

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES OF ANIMALS.

(LAW 1 OF 1909, PASSED 26TH MARCH, 1909.)

BE it enacted by the Governor and Legislative Council of Jamaica, as follows :—

1. In this Law, unless the context otherwise requires, the following terms have the meanings hereafter respectively assigned to them, that is to say : the expression "animals" mean cattle, sheep, goats, and all other ruminating animals ; horses, mules, asses, swine and dogs.

The expression "disease" means cattle plague, pleuro-pneumonia, foot and mouth disease, sheep pox, sheep scab, swine fever, farcy, glanders, rabies, anthrax, and any disease declared by the Governor in Privy Council to be a contagious or infectious disease within the meaning of this law.

The expression "fodder" means hay, grass, or other substance commonly used as bedding or otherwise for or about animals.

The term "suspected" means suspected of being diseased.

The expression "infected place" means any prescribed field, property, place, district, or area declared to be an infected place by order of the Governor and published in the *Jamaica Gazette.*

2. (1) Every person having in his possession or under his charge an animal affected with disease shall :

(a) keep that animal separate from animals not so affected, and

(b) immediately give notice of the fact of the animal being so affected to the nearest constable or to Commissioners appointed under this Law.

(2) Any stock owner having good cause to believe that stock depastured on lands contiguous to lands in his own occupation are affected by disease may give notice as in the preceding sub-section.

(3) Any constable to whom notice is given shall forthwith give information thereof to the Commissioners or to the Inspector of Constabulary of the parish, or to the officer in charge of the nearest Constabulary Station who, being satisfied of the correctness of such information, shall thereupon immediately report the fact of the existence of disease to the Commissioners or to the Governor.

3. The Governor on being satisfied that disease exists in any parish in this island, shall have power by order published in the *Jamaica Gazette*, to appoint such persons as he may think fit to be Commissioners under this Law for such parish. Such Commissioners shall have power by order published in the *Jamaica Gazette* to declare that any field, property, place, district or area within which they are satisfied that disease exists, is an infected place within the meaning of this Law and may from time to time if they think fit extend the area of such infected place.

4. From and after the passing of this Law no animal shall be removed into or out of an infected place until rules shall have been made by the Governor in Privy Council and published in the *Jamaica Gazette*, and not then except in accordance with such rules.

5. Any person moving or assisting in moving or ordering or permitting to be moved into or out of an infected place, any animal otherwise than in accordance with rules to be made as aforesaid, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding fifty pounds, to be recovered summarily before a Resident Magistrate or two Justices of the Peace, and in default of payment to imprisonment with or without hard labour for any period not exceeding three months.

6. Where an animal has died from disease, the carcass, skin, horns, hoofs and dung of such animal and any fodder and litter used in connection with such animal shall be burnt by the owner of such animal in such manner as the Commissioners may direct.

7. The Commissioners are, subject to the orders of the Governor, authorized to take such measures and issue such regulations as they may think fit to isolate any infected place and carry out the provisions of this Law.

8. When the Commissioners have declared a district or an area to be an infected place, they may at any time on being satisfied that there is not within that district or area, or within some particular portion thereof any place infected with disease, declare by order published in the *Jamaica Gazette*, that district or area or that portion thereof to be free from disease.

9. The Commissioners for any parish or any of them may enter any field, property or place in such parish on which he or they has or have reasonable grounds for supposing that there is an animal there affected with disease or which has within 21 days been so affected.

10. The Commissioners or any of them and any person authorized by them in writing, may during the day time enter any field, property or place in an infected place for the purpose of seeing that the provisions of this Law and the rules and regulations are carried out, and may if they think the same necessary, make money advances to persons whose diseased animals have died, to enable them to burn the same.

11. Any suspected animal on any main or parochial road whether under control or not may be seized by the police, and taken to the nearest place appointed for the isolation of diseased animals, and shall be slaughtered or otherwise dealt with as the Commissioners or any of them shall in writing direct.

12. Any person contravening any of the provisions of this Law or of any rules or regulations framed or issued under this Law for which no special penalty is fixed shall be liable to be fined a sum not exceeding twenty-five pounds. All fines and penalties inflicted under this Law or any rules or regulations made thereunder, shall be recoverable summarily before a Resident Magistrate or two Justices of the Peace and in default of payment to imprisonment with or without hard labour for any period not exceeding three months.

13. The expenses incurred by the Government and the Commissioners in carrying out the provisions of this Law shall be paid by the Treasurer on the warrant of the Governor.

CLEAN WEEDING.

THE following introductory article, in the latest issue of the *Tropical Agriculturist*, is by the acting editor, Mr. R. H. Lock :—

We take it that agriculture may be defined, for practical purposes, as the art of making a profit by the cultivation of land, and that it is the proper object of the agriculturist to obtain the largest possible permanent profit off a given area of ground. In other words, agriculture is the art of making land as valuable as possible in respect of the crops which it is capable of growing. It is not the planter's function to concern himself with the beauty of the landscape either by respecting the natural vegetation or by neglecting to tap natural sources of water power; for example: as in other forms of business, so in agriculture, the question to be decided in the case of any given proposal is, will it pay?

Just as much as in any other agricultural operation, the question of weeding in a particular way, must be decided from this point of view,

The question before us then is, does clean weeding pay ? And we think the answer is obvious that this depends upon the circumstances of the particular case. We are told on all hands that clean weeding is cheap weeding, and many people seem to think that the whole philosophy of weeding is summed up in this phrase. But we are not prepared to agree that even this idea might not be better expressed. We are not sure that another expression is not preferable—if you go in for cleau weeding at all do it thoroughly. If it is decided iu any particular case that clean weeding is the best policy, then the more thoroughly it is carried out the cheaper it will be in the long run. Let us trace the origin of the idea of clean weeding. It is clearly derived from the methods of temperate agriculture, and is particularyly applicable to the case of annual crops. Where any kind of an annual crop is grown it unquestionably pays to keep the land clean. If weeds are allowed to seed or spread in any quantity, trouble rapidly multiplies itself. We might almost say that agriculture in the strictest sense, that is to say field cultivation, consists in the first instance in the extermination of weeds. We think it may be taken as generally agreed that in the case of short-lived crops, weeding cannot be carried out too thoroughly. When one comes to consider the question of crops which are to occupy the ground permanently, or for a considerable number of years, the question, of what will pay best is not so immediately obvious. We require to proceed somewhat cautiously when we find that men of considerable experience hold apparently diametrically opposite views with regard to the question of clean weeding as applied to the case of permanent tropical crops.

Let us go back for a moment to home experience. We find that fruit trees at home are grown in one of two ways. Orchards are either laid down in grass, or they are combined with the cultivation of vegetables. Where fruit trees are grown by themselves and without a catch crop of any kind, weeding is only resorted to in cases where large tracts of level land can be dealt with by means of machinery, as is done in parts of the U. S. A. Weeding by hand is certainly never dreamt of.

Returning to the consideration of tropical products. It is clear that the same rule applies as at home to crops which only occupy the ground for a few months. Grains and vegetables, cotton, tobacco and other annual crops require cultivation and the thorough extermination of weeds. But when we pass on to the consideration of more permanent crops like tea and cacao, we find that a number of separate points have to be taken into consideration. In the case of every such crop the question of the growth of the leguminous plants as a source of nitrogen and organic matter and the question of forking or other methods of cultivation have to be considered in their relation to the process of weeding proper. But more than this, weeding on tea estates is a problem intimately bound up with the question of the management of labour, and that is a problem upon which we do not propose to intrude upon the present occasion.

The controversy over weeding relates chiefly to rubber, and it is to the question of clean weeding rubber that we propose to devote our attention just now. Here, again, the question of weeding cannot be considered without at the same time taking account of the kindred processes of tillage and the growth of leguminous crops. The question of catch crops, too, demands attention. And there can be no doubt that the growth of a suitable catch crop under conditions of thorough weeding and cultivation is a process which will pay if a suitable crop can be found, and if it can be disposed of at a profit when grown. Unfortunately these conditions are not always realisable in Ceylon. Apart from the question of catch crops, does it pay to clean-weed a plantation consisting simply of rubber ? In the face of the assurance of such authorities as Mr. Carruthers and Mr. Kelway Bamber that in most cases it does not, it may appear superfluous to discuss the matter any further. But, on the other hand, many experienced planters tell us that we must clean-weed, and

We feel bound to give it as our own impression that, where rubber is planted on level ground and stumps can be got rid of within practicable limits of cost, it will pay to cultivate and weed a rubber estate with modern machinery. But it is no doubt the case that on a majority of estates, owing to the nature of the ground, the size of stumps and general monetary considerations, such a method will be found impracticable.

It is the contention of Messrs. Bamber and Carruthers that rubber can be grown with hardly any diminution in size, and at a much smaller cost as compared with clean weeding, by a process which consists essentially in the growth and encouragement of selected weeds. The method consists in weeding only a narrow strip down each row of trees, and encouraging between the rows the growth of some creeping plant which will smother and eventually kill all other forms of vegetation.

A point upon which Mr. Bamber lays special stress in the use of the green creepers themselves as a mulch to be applied round the basis of the rubber trees. Here, again, we see the impossibility of regarding the weeding question as a thing by itself, the advantages and disadvantages of removing weeds must be considered in connection with other operations not strictly comprised under the head of weeding.

In the report and circular before us various advantages are claimed, and we think with justice, for this method of dealing with weeds. The creepers especially recommended for this purpose in Ceylon are the wild passion flower—*Passiflora fœtido* and *Mikania scandens*. The latter might recently have been observed in the act of demonstrating its powers of smothering other vegetation to a marked degree by anyone travelling up or down the railway between Kandy and Polgahawela; and the former is also abundant, though less rampant, in the neighbourhood of Peradeniya. Extracts from Mr. Carruthers' report will be found on a later page of the present issue of the *T. A.*, and Mr. Bamber's circular has recently been published by the Royal Botanic Gardens Department. We may leave them to tell their own story, confidently recommending both these essays to all who are interested in the planting of Hevea rubber—.R. H. L.

[Many estates here are fortunate in having as their chief weeds natural leguminous creeping plants, which in established cultivations cover the ground, to the exclusion of grasses, and do good to be kept until they get too rampant, by which time they have dropped seed, provided for their renewal, and can be cleaned out. On other estates "Spanish needle," a soft and succulent plant, eaten with avidity by all kinds of stock, and which is easily weeded, is the common weed. Where grasses are rampant, these are expensive to weed, and if they could be killed by some vigorous creeping leguminous creeper like the Velvet Bean (which, however, will not flourish in heavy shade) it would be most useful.—Ed.]

SHOWS.

Bog Walk Show.—The first Show of the St. Thomas-ye-Vale Agricultural Society, was held on 15th April, at Bybrook Pen, Bog Walk, the property of the Vice-president, Mr. R. L. Constantine. Bybrook, which had been lying neglected for some years, was lately bought by Mr. Constantine, who has spent a great deal of capital, energy, and careful thought on it, so that it is now a beautiful pen, well laid out and well regulated. It lies along the Railway, so that the Show Committee arranged for trains to stop at

and

worked satisfactorily. On the whole, the railway was very accommodating this time and ran special trains from Kingston, Ewarton, and Albany, in addition to their ordinary trains. The Ewarton and Albany trains appeared to be exceedingly well patronised, but the Kingston train only moderately so. A guarantee of £21 had to be given for the Albany trains, and yet although the train seemed filled, it was reported by the Railway not to have paid and a call had to be made on the guarantee fund.

Nearly all the necessary arrangements had been carefully thought over and arranged for, and with an excellent staff of really good workers at the show, we are glad to say there were very few hitches. There were, to be sure, one or two little things where money leaked, which can be guarded against next time. There was an excellent attendance and a good humoured crowd. The exhibits of agricultural products were, on the whole, up to a very good standard for a first show, and comfortably filled the accommodation provided, which consisted of the two large marquees loaned by the parent Society, 80 x 20, and a small one 14 x 14, used as an office, beside the necessary pens for cattle and horses. The ring made, was the best in the island, and had a firm and level track. The stock exhibits were very promising and at the next show should largely increase. The whole grounds were beautifully decorated with flags and bunting. No show has been more carefully arranged for effect. The show grounds lay a quarter of a mile from the main road, but the road in was a good one and the entrance and crossing were all decorated with flags and arches.

His Excellency the Governor attended with party, and he opened the show.

We congratulate the St. Thomas-ye-Vale Agricultural Society on this successful outcome of their efforts to arouse interest in their district with this show. The district has been slow to arouse itself or move with the times, but it is a most promising district and a most promising Society, so that the show ought to develop into a big one. The local Society owes its existence almost entirely to Mr. John McPhail, of Tulloch, the President, and the show is also due largely to his efforts.

Not many districts can run a show annually it is found now, but we think this district will be able to do so.

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Brown's Town.—The third St. Ann Show held at Minard Pen, came off on 22nd April. On alternate years the Show is held at Thicketts and Brown's Town for the convenience of each part of the parish. This Show under notice was not so large a Show either in attendance or number of exhibits as the first Show held in 1905 or the second held in 1907, yet it was a better, more useful, more effective Show in every way, in as much as the arrangements to cope with every department were more thorough. Yet a great deal still requires to be provided for to make it a completely satisfactory

Show. First, the police require to be impressed with the idea that they are not there for fun nor for ornament, but to regulate the crowd and help in the protection of property. Shows are generally most orderly, but towards the close, the taking of exhibits by other than the owners, is very annoying to us who have the interest of Shows at heart, and have most interest in that department, (agricultural products) and is a great cause of complaint amongst exhibitors. We must say this, however, that frequently exhibitors are most careless themselves, and leave their exhibits lying about without coming to claim them. It is the duty of Show Committees to provide sufficient help so that exhibits can be delivered up safely and without confusion, as many of the exhibitors are of course illiterate and not able to recognise the numbers on their tickets. The first part of a Show gets along pretty well, but in the afternoon things are generally left to take care of themselves. The Show ring attracts everyone, even the police. It is not the Secretaries who are to blame, they have a distracting business with everyone pulling them this way and that way; it is the fault of the Committees who undertake responsibilities, but some of whom never give a thought to their obligations ; this makes it harder for those who work conscientiously. Brown's Town Show as a whole was a credit to the parish, and the members of the Show Committee who helped to make it a good Show. We congratulate the Secretary on the excellent results of his efforts. It was pleasing to know that the efforts of the Instructors brought in a large number of exhibits from adjoining parishes. One of the exhibitors was Robt. Lake, who won a first prize in the Clarendon Small Holdings Competition, and he was a very successful competitor indeed. Mr. Carnegie and Mr. Renford of Baillieston, to both of whom we had the pleasure of handing prizes in the Holdings Competition, were very successful competitors at Brown's Town Show. Then the Branch Societies at Albert Town and Ulster Spring, organised exhibits, and there was a considerable amount of emulation between them as to which Branch would take the most prizes. Both were very successful in cutting out St. Ann exhibitors in many classes where St. Ann might be expected to have been strongest. The stock exhibits were very good, and there is now a promise of good competition in the future when the old and well known stallions are being hard run by youngsters of a substance and quality that have not been noteworthy of late years.

In the stock classes too, the small settlers came out strong and with such quality that they ran the penkeepers close, and in some cases beat them.

In the agricultural products the quality of the exhibits was all along the line better than before, taking into account the season of the year in which it was held before. Altogether Brown's Town can take to itself credit that it has held a Show that has done good.

The grounds at Minard Pen are very fine, and very suitable for

CAMBRIDGE.—Looking down over the Liguanea Plains into Kingston, from the crest of the first line of mountains at a height of 200 feet is Bardowie, and over the ridge from that is the district of Cambridge, where there is a local Agricultural Society which *works*. Whenever you have an interested President and a good working Secretary there is progress. The Branch held a local Show on Wednesday, 5th May. The largest output of the district is vegetables for the supply of Kingston, and if the city could ordinarily get something of the quality that was exhibited at the Show, there would be no complaints of lack of succulent vegetables. It is, moreover, an excellent district for coffee, and there are excellent prospects for cocoa cultivation in the deep valleys.

There were 42 exhibits of bunches of turnips shown, and the first prize exhibit contained as pretty turnips as could be desired, taken just at the right stage for tenderness. There were 35 exhibits of bunches of carrots, 30 of scallions, 21 exhibits of Irish potatoes; these were the best of the vegetables displayed. In clean coffee there were 21 exhibits, in parchment coffee 14; of cured cocoa 13 exhibits, of pods 9 lots. The bananas made also a good display, and were of good quality. These were the most prominent exhibits.

For stock the only classes were for donkeys, goats, and fowls. There was a good attendance and a happy crowd. We congratulate the President and the Secretary and the Instructor also on this promising Show.

So far this year from the beginning of April, the three Shows held have made a good start, and we hope the others to follow will keep up the good traditions established.—JNO. BARCLAY, Secretary.

SEASONABLE HINTS.

WRITING at the end of May, we hear of seasonable showers in most parts of the island, but the very parts were drought has prevailed so badly and so long, there has been little or no rain. There are still no signs of the heavy seasons rains that we are all so anxiously looking for, but we shall not give up hope until the first week in June passes. The heat feels more than normal, and this is a hopeful precursor of rains.

We have been asked to continue these "Seasonable Hints" that we used to write, as they were useful, especially for the more inexperienced cultivators. For three years back we have had no normal seasons,—so "Seasonable Hints" looked like irony—everything has been abnormal, but the weather seems to be falling into line again. What is wanted is at least a week's very heavy rain every day, so that the ground may get well saturated deep down, and springs and streams commence to flow again in their old way.

No planter looks forward to planting anything in May, but we think that this is because at the end of the month heavy rains were formerly regular that might wash out seeds or young plants.

This year, guinea corn planted in May has done splendidly, but we find that guinea corn is a most accommodating plant, and if

it gets a few showers, will do well at any time, while maize-corn is most particular about its seasons. In all districts guinea corn can also be planted in the middle of June and by September will bear heads. We have two kinds of seed for sale—white and red. Pigeons are very fond of the white seed, and many people plant this to attract the birds for shooting, but these birds do not appear to like the red. On the other hand small bush birds fancy the red seed very much. One way to frighten off birds is to put up poles through the field with little wooden or cardboard windmills on them, and if these are so made as to make some noise all the better.

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CORN.—In a very few mountain districts which are very seasonable June corn can be planted, but it does not result in a good crop of seed. For forage, however, it does well. The corn crop planted in March or April, should be gone through and all the weakliest stalks cut out for feeding to give the strong stalks more room. In fact all the weakly stalks should be cut out just as they are going to tassel, not only to thin the field but to prevent the good strong stalks being fertilised by the weakly ones. There is no finer food for horses and milch cows than corn stalks, or corn "tops;" these are not only very nutritious, good results always being direct and unmistakeable, but they are much relished. Food that is relished and eaten eagerly by stock, will always do more good than a food that is eaten simply through hunger, and because there is nothing else.

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PEAS AND BEANS.—We do not think peas and beans can be planted successfully in June to get a crop of seed, but they can be planted for green dressings, as there are usually showers in the beginning of June,. Dry weather will take them in July, but by that time they will be in a strong growth and thick enough to form a mulch. This is where a green dressing was not planted in March or April through the young bananas, when in that case these can now be cut down and left lying or another planting made to supply mulch in July.

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BANANAS.—In all seasonable districts with the showers we are having and the heat, bananas begin to take their fastest growth in June. If not suckered before, all the superfluous young suckers should now be cut out leaving the best to grow, except where the soil is exceptionally rich and the bananas are well forward, when two may be left. Small settlers should note this. They often leave two when both are strong even though they are not well forward, and even though the soil is not rich, because they cannot make up their minds to cut out one. But two suckers delay each other's growth very much, probably as much as three months under ordinary circumstances. As July is a dry month, a mulch should be used as far as possible before the ground gets dry after the rains. We

fortunate enough to have plenty of these planted in their bananas, can have a thick cover in June and can later cut it down for a mulch in July. In ratoon bananas, the suckers meant for next year's fruit should be man high by this time—the older and the thicker the bananas are, the larger the suckers for next year should be at this time. Many people judge by the size of the plant, but of course young plants have the sunlight and air around them, and have 12ft. square of ground to themselves,—while ratoons are under shade and playing second fiddle when it comes to feeding. Superfluous suckers should be cut out now leaving the strongest for next year.

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COCOA.—If we get good rains in the beginning of June, young cocoa can be planted at stake or transplanted from pots, or planted out in baskets—a safe plan—and the moment either are planted, a light mulch should be put round. A good idea is to chop the stems of bananas and turn the juicy face downwards round the seed or plant, and the water will then drain into the soil. This is the best form of mulching we have seen for young cocoa, and we have done it regularly. Those who plant cocoa should adhere to one type, taking the strongest bearing trees they can find. A young tree that will grow strongly and bear profusely, is more to us we think than any particular type of cocoa. The best type of cocoa to plant is the one you find does best in your particular soil and climate. It is, however, prudent to adhere to one type when you do plant and not to try seeds from dozens of different types of pods from different kinds of trees in different localities. This is a good time to plant cowpeas round young cocoa to make a mulch when the banana stem mulch has rotted away.

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COFFEE.—Small settlers should keep manuring their coffee now there is a good crop on the trees, as the July weather may tell on the berries. All the manure that can be got should be scraped up, and all the grass and banana trash, to mulch through the coffee walk, especially on red soils. Experience has proved to everyone that a good mulch is worth five times as much as the cost of labour in putting it on. The best form of manure in an established cultivation of cocoa or coffee is top dressing in the form of a mulch.

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ORANGE TREES.—Very few small settlers take the least trouble with their orange trees, but they are always grumbling when they cannot get fruit when it is selling at a good price. We know several groves—not under irrigation,—where early fruit is got almost every year, and the small settlers with few trees can do this better than a man who owns a large grove. It is very probable that if we get heavy rain in June, that a mid-season blossom will come out in July,—this would mean fruit in March next when it is usually not wanted, and the plan is, when this sets into little fruit the size of large marbles about August, to pick it off. The cost of labour

would probably be from 1d. to 1½d. for each tree. But the process will prevent late fruiting, and will help whatever fruit is on the tree to come in early and large. There is no doubt at all that if trees are relieved of their fruit early, say September or October, and not later than November, they are induced to fruit earlier. Trees that blossom in March and April are not of much use to the owner. They want them to blossom in December, January and February at the latest. We know owners who thin out the clusters of fruit where they set too thickly so as to get big fruit. Some argue against all this and say it is no use at all, it is only foolery,—but these are the people who think that nature cannot be helped, and that there is no such thing as horticultural skill, or that there is no room for it here, in spite of all the evidences of what has been done in other countries and what is being done here now. They probably argued at one time that bananas could not be timed either, but would probably come in when Providence meant them to come in.

We have heard of a small settler contending at a show when his sweet potatoes were disqualified because they had worm holes, that he did not put the worm holes there, and therefore could not be held responsible. But he could have prevented the damage and shown other tubers that had not such worm holes.

A great deal can be done with citrus trees now, right away, in thinning off fruit that is evidently too late, this will force on the larger fruit that may come in in time for the big prices, and certainly make them larger. It stands to reason that in case of drought if there are 1,000 oranges on a tree and half is taken off, the 500 will fare better,—get more food, and more water, and more room to expand.

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VEGETABLES.—Not much can be done in the way of vegetable planting at this time of the year except there is a watering pan handy,—and water—and both are used regularly. We have on another page pointed out the value of peas and beans as green vegetables for the table where other kinds cannot be got. These can be planted now, and the young pods of any kind of peas can be used as string beans, even cowpeas. In the mountain parts, most vegetables can be planted now and in the medium elevations in cool, selected places. In the lowlands plant more spinach, okras, tomatoes, garden egg, and peas and beans.

STOCK NOTES.

SORE EYES IN CATTLE.—Sometimes cattle and also sheep and goats develop sore eyes; the lids becoming swollen and red and the eye kept closed and water discharging from them. The eye should be washed out with a wash composed of one oz. boracic acid dissolved in a quart bottle of warm water. After continuing this treatment three times a day for three days anoint with an ointmen
posed of 11 parts of pure vaseline to one part iodoform th

form being thoroughly mixed with the vaseline until the particles are absorbed in it.

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Gravel in Horses' Hoofs.—Contrary to the belief of many, gravel stones do not enter a horse's foot in the sole and work up through to the coronet and come out. The name gravel in the foot originates from the fact that a gravel stone will sometimes find a lodgment under the shoe and thus press on the sole of the foot until an injury is inflicted upon the sensitive sole of the foot, and a formation of matter will take place under the horny sole. This will be forced up the laminae (creases) of the inner part of the shell or horn of the foot, and at last break out as an abscess at the coronet. There never is any gravel stone that works up through the foot. The time it will take this matter to form and work its way up through the laminae is indefinite. It may be only a few days and it may be weeks after the injury is inflicted to the sole of the foot. To assist nature, take off the shoe, clean out the hole in the hoof fearlessly with a clean knife, dipped in jeyes and water, wash out the hole with the same antiseptic, stuff it up with cotton wool, dipped in Benjamin's Healing Oil, clean out once a week and re-stuff, until better. Also keep the abscess on the cornet clean with jeyes and water.

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Know More About Blackleg.—Every cattle raiser should know all he can learn about Blackleg, what a fatal disease it is to young stock, how easily the infection is spread from one animal to another, and how best to prevent it.

Dr. J. C. Robert, of the Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station, has written a most intelligent bulletin on this subject. It is well worth carefnl reading and study. It has been reprinted, and it will be sent free to anyone interested in the subject who will write to Parke, Davis & Company, Detroit, Mich., and ask for a copy.

It is a good plan to learn how to save the calf crop and stop the spread of this most infectious and fatal disease.

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Lampas.—Whenever a horse's mouth becomes tender or inflamed and the bars of the palate are on a level with or lower than the teeth, the trouble is called "Lampas," and even in this year of grace 1909, the ordinary course is to burn the bars with a red hot iron, or cut the swelling. As a matter of fact, nearly all young horses and many old ones that are feeding on pasture, have the bars of their mouths raised, and this is a provision of nature. The horse gathers the grass with its lips and cuts it with its incisor teeth, but he requires to hold the grass firm in his mouth to enable him to cut it and this he does by pressing the grass between the point of the tongue and the bar of the palate. When a beast is taken from pasture and fed on grain, he at first mouths it and finds difficulty in mastication, and loses a good deal of the grain. Where horses are fed on cut grass, of course, they do not go through the same action as in grazing and they do not develop the bars of the mouth. All

that requires to be done is to rub the swollen parts with common salt or alum, or half of each combined, and fed on bran mash or ground corn or oats, all damped, for a week or two, and the trouble will pass away. Most young horses in changing their teeth, especially from 3½ to 4½ years old, suffer from swollen bars of the mouth. Tbey should be fed on soft food at that time. The practice of burning the front bars of the horse's palate is simply barbarous and altogether unnecessary.

* * *

Salt for Stock.—A point of some importance for keeping stock healthy, is the providing of rock-salt to cows in the pasture field. In an ordinary cattle ration there is about ¾-oz. of salt, but a milk cow requires a good deal more than that. The milk drains away fully an ounce per day out of the system, and unless this is supplied, the ash material of their vegetable food does not yield enough. It is most instructive to watch how regularly a cow will come for her "salt lick" once she knows where it is to be found, aud at the end of the grazing season there is a very noticeable difference between cows who have had regular access to salt and those who have not.—*Queensland Agricultural Journal.*

[Penkeepers as a rule observe this point, but small owners of stock very seldom think of supplying salt to their animals. The licking of the roek-salt induces a flow of saliva, and to give salt in this form is better than giving fine salt in the food where animals are hand-fed.

Some years ago we tried to have prepared and experimented with, a medicinal block for animals to lick, consisting principally of salt, with sulphur, nitre, and other ingredients that act as useful stimulants, and tonies to digestion. Such blocks were meant to be placed in the cattle pen in the pasture, under cover of a small thatched shed, to protect the blocks from the weather. But the agent who was interesting himself in the matter here died, and the experiment has never been continued. We still think it a feasible, simple, and useful plan, for giving salt and other useful condiments and tonics to stock.—]

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The milk record for the year September 21st, 1907, to September 19th, 1908, of the herd of Red-Poll cattle belonging to Mr. Alfred J. Smith, Rendlesham, Woodbridge, has been published. The total milk yield of forty-one cows was 298,962½lbs., giving an average of 7,291¾lbs. per cow. The best yields were 10,751lbs. to 10,286½lbs., and 10,080lbs. The cow giving the largest yield averaged 32.38lbs. per day. The ranges of yields for the year were from 10,751lbs. to 4,504lbs., and of daily yields from 32.38lbs. to 15.69lbs.

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How to Examine a Sick Animal.—First take the temperature of the animal by placing a fever thermometer into the rectum, allowing it to remain there from three to five minutes. The normal

temperature of a cow is 101 degrees (Fahrenheit). The normal temperature of a horse is 100 degrees, sheep 101 degrees.

Second, take the pulse of the animal, which can be found at the angle of the lower jaw bone. The normal beats of a cow's pulse is from forty to fifty per minute and that of a horse from thirty-three to forty per minute.

Third, count the respiration of the animal, or number of times it breathes by watching the sides or flanks, or by pressing the ear to the side. The normal respiration of the cow is from fifteen to twenty per minute, and that of a horse is from twelve to fifteen per minute while resting. If the temperature, pulse or respirations are found to be higher or faster than above described, you will know that the animal is ailing.

POULTRY NOTES.

WILL you be good enough as to inform me what is the treatment to be used on fowls suffering from a horny, scaly, growth on their feet extending up to the first joint on their leg. I find several of my fowls in this condition and they crouch in one spot for hours and will not eat, getting as light as a feather.

Another disease I have noticed which has caused several deaths among my fowls, is a white, mattery growth in the eye, generally one eye, this developed until the eye is covered, and a lump is formed bulging out and eventually the bird dies.

I shall be very much obliged if you can give me any information on the above subjects with a view to curing the disease.

[We do not appear to have your name as a member of the Society. If you had been reading the "Poultry Notes" in the JOURNAL you would have got all the information you ask for, as both troubles have often been dealt with. The trouble on the legs of the fowl is called "Scaly Leg," and in March JOURNAL the way to deal with it was described. Mix a paste composed of one part kerosine, two parts lard and two parts sulphur, rub it well into the legs of the fowls with a brush or a cloth every day for three days, then you can rub off the mealy stuff even although it draws blood. Then rub the paste on again and the fowls will be clear. The scale really consists of a small parasite which eats into the leg and the fowls often suffer very much through this.

2. The trouble in the eye is roup; get threepence worth of permanganate of potash from the chemist, put a few of the pellets into water and clean out the eye. Jeyes smarts too much, the permanganate is safer. When this trouble gets so far along, as to cause a lump over the eye, and the eye is closed, there is nothing for it but to lance the swelling and to take the yellow-white bad-smelling matter out, but this requires skill and care. Whenever you see the trouble begin by matter getting in the eye followed by a swelling, clean out the eye with permanganate and water daily until better—

Do you consider poultry-rearing remunerative, and can you give me any hints as to the best breeds to keep? Is the sale of eggs more remunerative than the rearing itself and can it be successfully carried on? *If you can recommend me to any journal or magazine* on the subject I shall feel obliged.

What kind of poultry is the best from a remunerative point of view?

[All your requests have been repeatedly answered in the AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL in the Poultry Notes section. I send you a copy which contains some instructive matter about starting poultry-rearing on a large scale. This says: "Don't, without trained experience." All the poultry journals are written for northern conditions and apply very little here.

There is no best breed,—it is very much a matter of preference and also a matter of local conditions, not only conditions of climate, but conditions of market. It would be more remunerative to raise fowls for eggs. The whole matter has been well worked out in our *book on* 'Poultry-Rearing,' published by the Imperial Department of Agriculture, and especially with regard to conditions in the West Indies. It has gone out of print, however.

We do not know what your markets will be, you will know that yourself; but between October and February there is always more demand for eggs than supply here, after that there is usually more supply than demand. But the difficult thing apparently is to get the eggs in these months,—that is where skill comes in.

For market purposes a cross between White Leghorns and White Plymouth Rocks, or as a pure breed, White Wyandottes, would make the best combination for your district. Black Minorcas are more for family use and for a select trade as they lay very large eggs, for which in the ordinary market you get no more as when eggs are sold by the dozen.

With six or eight Plymouth Rock hens mated to a White Leghorn cock you would make a good start with a few selected common fowls put in. The pullets of this cross would be fine layers and fair sized birds,—very hardy. The flesh would be a bit coarse, but for anything finer you would get no more per lb.—ED.]

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I FIND that there are three classes of layers—the fast layer, the poor layer, and the persistent layer. The poor layer should be sent to market as quickly as the trap-nest shows her deficiency. The fast layer does not make good records. This class lays very fast while at it, laying from twenty-five to thirty eggs in as many days; but they always make bad breaks in their records, going for weeks without laying an egg. The persistent layer is the one that we should breed from. They will lay from five to six eggs per week almost the entire year, seldom failing in their weekly record.—*Farmers' Gazette.*

ORDINARY fowls require twenty-one days to hatch. Guinea fowls go from twenty-six to twenty-nine days; pea fowls from twenty-eight to thirty days; ducks, twenty-eight days; geese thirty days; turkeys, twenty-eight days. Aged eggs rarely hatch in the shortest time.

* * *

INDIAN RUNNER DUCKS.—We imported a trio of Indian Runner Ducks (a drake and two ducks), and circumstances having changed, the owner did not want them, so we advertised them for sale. We had no idea so many people would be interested. They were purchased by telephone as soon as the office opened, and we have had 12 enquiries for them. They cost £3 7s. landed here. If anybody wishes to import this breed of ducks next November, we shall be glad to get them for them. We could, of course, get cheaper birds to cost about £3 landed here.

This breed of ducks is not very well known out of Great Britain and Australia. In the latter place they have become exceedingly popular. In fact, we think the federal states of Australia are more advanced in commercial poultry-rearing than the mother-land. However, this breed of ducks has been developed in the United Kingdom as most good stock has. They are a small breed, mostly fawn in colour, with a white ring round their necks, but there is also a white variety. The Buff-Orpington ducks are larger, are also exeellent layers, and have been bred, we think, from Indian Runners.

In the great laying competitions held in the Australian Colonies, these ducks have excelled the hens in the number of eggs laid, and as they lay large eggs, far excelled them in the weight laid. We note from the third year's laying competition in Western Australia beginning July last year, that for the eight months ended February, Black Orpington fowls stand at the top with 1,011 eggs, followed by a long array of White Leghorns, the second pen having 1,000 eggs for the nine months, six females and one male bird being in each pen. The first pen of Indian Runner Ducks have 998 eggs at their credit, the second 971, the third 970, while the third pen of White Leghorn fowls has only 951 eggs at their credit. But in the first year's contest the ducks far and away exceeded the hens, while in the competition running into the second year with the same pens of fowls and ducks, a pen of White Leghorns stands first amongst hens with 998 eggs, the next pen, Golden Wyandottes, had 991, and the third pen, Brown Leghorns, 861. But the first pen of Indian Runner ducks for the 20 months have 2,542 eggs for the first, the second 2,282, and the third 2195. These ducks although not large, make good eating, having a gamey flavour. The duck of Jamaica is the Muscovy, and no other breeds have yet succeeded here well, neither Pekins, Aylesburys, Rouens, or any other breed as a rule. Some individual owners have succeeded with them where they took special pains with them. But we think the Indian Runners will succeed as well as the Muscovies as they are so active.

COMMENTS.

JIPPI JAPPA HATS.—The classes at Hector's River, Albert Town, and Frankfield have gone ahead vigorously, and we expect good results from all three.

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SHIPMENTS OF HONEY.—The following certificate authorised by the Government and signed by the Director of Agriculture, is ready for issue to any shippers of honey:—

"I hereby certify that the disease known as "Foul Brood," is not known to exist in Jamaica, and that after careful inquiry, I am satisfied that the apiaries in this island are free from this disease."

This can be used with shipments of honey in any way the shipper pleases.

* * *

PREMIUMS ON LIVE STOCK.—We call attention to the offer of premiums on live stock imported as described on page 196. This scheme will hold good until the end of the financial year, that is, 31st March, 1910. Intimation of intention to import and compete for premiums must be given to the Secretary, who will inspect the animals on their arrival, along with the Government Veterinary Surgeon. After they have been six months in the island the animals will be again inspected, and the premium paid to the best.

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PRISON FARM.—The Prison Farm at Spanish Town, the initiation of which was received with much opposition, was an excellent idea, and unlike many such ideas it has been carried out successfully all along. Lying along the Spanish Town railroad and near the station, it has been a good object lesson. Part of the land is fine alluvial soil, but part of it is a stiff clay that has required a good deal of working up.

From the report of the Prison Department, we note that although the farm is supplied by water from the irrigation canal, it suffered from the scarcity of water caused by the general drought.

In the year ending 31st March, 1908, the farm yielded crops valued at £1,393 3s. 5d., and of this amount £598 15s. 5d. is the value of what was used for the consumption of the prisoners in the District Prison, thereby reducing the cost of the prison by that amount, *i.e.*, the net cost of each prisoner per annum was reduced from £12 10s. 10¼d. to £9 1s. 5½d. But in addition the value of the produce from the farm sold to the General Penitentiary and other public institutions and private parties during the year amounted to £794 8s. The value of the crops during the preceding year amounted to £1,490 10s. 11d., but that year better seasons prevailed.

We are therefore glad to see that the Government have taken steps to purchase five acres of ground which is to be cultivated by the inmates of the Lepers' Asylum, Spanish Town. All poor houses should have cultivations attached to them so that all the inmates might do a little outside work, which is not only good for them physically, but will also reduce expenses.

TANKS.—We note from the report of the St. John's Branch, that they have at last been successful in making arrangements with the Parochial Board of St. Catherine, to co-operate in providing a water supply for the district. Through the efforts of the local Branch Society the people of the neighbourhood will provide part of the labour free.

The local Societies can do a good deal of useful work when they set their minds to it.

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RUBBER.—We have before referred to the great value of the rubbers suitable for dry lands, other than Ceara, but of the same family, and which are now being exploited. We had an article by the late Mr. Robert Thomson, in the March 1908, JOURNAL, on Manicoba rubber, often called "Jequie," who visited the region in Brazil where it is native and abundant. He spoke highly of the usefulness such a rubber would be to us here, in districts not suitable for Para, *Castilloa*, or *Funtumia*. We have some Ceara trees growing throughout the island, and they have grown well in very dry locations. Manicoba rubber, however, which grows as quickly and readily, is a superior rubber yielder.

We note from the *Hawaiian Agriculturist*, that there they have found Ceara rubber to do well under their conditions (and they appear to be too far north for Para and Castilloa to do well enough to compete with more tropical regions)—but they are now eagerly planting Manicoba trees, the seeds of which have been rather difficult to get. They have found that while Ceara rubber grows well on dry lands, it grows even better where there is good soil and a good rainfall, and they expect that the Manicoba, which is also a quick grower, will also be a quick yielder.

Mr. Thomson wrote of this rubber—"Manicoba is essentially a small tree. . . . . . You can plant from six to ten times more plants to the acre of this plant. . . . . . In all my experience of tropical planting I have never encountered a plant so amenable to rough and ready treatment. It even surpasses its congener, cassava, in this respect."

The long dry weather we have had has caused a cessation of the interest here in planting rubber, but where it can be done economically, we think planters should keep it up and take every care of those trees they have planted. Good seasons will return and we then shall have a long spell of favourable conditions, as nature works apparently in cycles, and no place has ever too long a run of prosperity or the reverse. We have had the reverse, and in the natural course, we should expect soon to have favourable circumstances for a spell of years.

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SPRAYING CITRUS TREES.—We can send to anyone who wishes to spray or wash his orange and grapefruit trees, a sample of a spraying fluid supplied for experiment by Wm. Cooper and Nephew, Berkhamstead, England,—provided careful observation of results be made and reports sent to us.

GREEN DRESSINGS.—We have some velvet beans on hand for sale in small quantities. Bengal and velvet beans are very much alike ; both stand drought well, and provide a great amount of vegetation to cover the ground. They are both very similar to "cowitch" in leaf and growth, but have not the fine prickly hairs on the pod, characteristic of cowitch. We have known velvet beans to grow knee deep over the ground in a tangled, rank mass of vegetation.

We have been writing for 10 years about velvet beans and their great use in orange groves, young banana walks, and especially banana walks that are about to be thrown up for a spell,—but still very few have ever given this legume a trial.

Cowpeas are being used to some extent now, but on the whole the *great value* of pea and bean crops to the land is not yet fully appreciated or even largely appreciated. Velvet beans are such rampant creepers that if planted between the rows of young bananas planted twelve feet apart, they might in two months cover the bananas. In ploughable land, however, it is easy to cut the end of the vines with the plough. The mass of vegetation should not be ploughed into the soil when green but either be allowed to die down (when seed will drop aud grow again) or better still cutlassed down when in blossom and left as a mulch.

* * *

COTTON GINNERY.—Mr. Eric G. Anderson of the Cottage, Hayes P.O., has erected a cotton gin and baling press ;—any one wanting cotton ginned within reach of this place, can have their cotton ginned by arrangement with him. He can also buy cotton in the seed.

* * *

PRIZE HOLDINGS COMPETITION.—We congratulate the Instructors on the results of the last competition. Personally, however, we have only visited Clarendon and in the northern part we saw plain evidences of solid improvement of holdings. Good new fencing, cleau yards, and tidy houses, well-kept cultivations,—some trenching,—(more of it desirable) plenty of thinning out of old coffee iu favour of cocoa, and pruning of cocoa, with tarring of the cut ends of branches.

This year's competition is to be held in Trelawny, St. Catherine, Portland and St. Thomas. All Branch Societies in these districts should discuss the Prize Holdings Competitlon.

SHOWS.

The following are the Shows arranged for this year :—

1.	St. Margaret's Bay	-	24th June
2.	St. George's Branch at Buff Bay	-	2nd August
3.	Port Royal Mountains -	-	5th ,,
4.	Hector's River (Portland)	-	12th ,,
5.	Darliston, at Enfield -	-	9th November
6.	Santa Cruz Mountains -	-	9th ,,

CORRESPONDENCE.

(Only letters with replies likely to be of general use are published here.)

King Edward Hotel, Mandeville, Ja., June 5th, 1909.

I notice in your JOURNAL an enquiry as to the manufacture of "Rum Shrub." I have been selling it for over a year and it is very popular with tourists. It is made by Mr. M. E. Muirhead of Marshalls Pen.—J. B. DICK.

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While prices for pineapples have ruled low, we have made a profit on all shipments so far heard from—ranging from 33 cents to $1.05 per box, averaging about 75 cents, which is not too bad, when one considers the bumper crop in Cuba, Porto Rico, and Florida. I will continue shipping as long as I can show a balance on the right side. Is there anything doing in pines in Jamaica? Next year I expect to try the English Markets, via New York, and also arrange to preserve all "ripes" and balance left when the market goes too low, late in the season. I expect to plant about 40 or 50 acres more of pines this summer. We have out now about 200 acres of citrus, but will plant no more, as that is all I care to look after, with tobacco, cattle, mule-raising, tropical fruits, eucalyptus, etc. I expect to plant probably 100 acres of eucalyptus; what we have out now is doing very well indeed. As to the weather this Spring, we had it somewhat dry for a time, so that we had to irrigate, but the rains began earlier than usual, so it was not so bad as last year. We have four drilled wells and a big pond, so now we have an abundant supply of water,—our largest well gives 300 gallons per minute, which goes a long way in irrigating, as we use pipes and none is wasted, so we are not so dependent on the seasons as formerly, but we are having good rains now, and they are likely to continue all summer. Our grape fruit and lemons are doing very well indeed, and we shall have a good crop this year; our oranges have not done so well, but will have a small crop. I have out 10 acres of tropical fruits, of as many kinds as I have been able to get hold of, including 19 varieties of East Indian mangoes, and the best varieties of alligator pears from Florida—budded. I am planting the larger stuff 41ft. apart, and the small stuff in between. Please be sure and send me the JOURNAL, as I am sure that it contains much that I want to read.—H. G. BURNETT.

Los Palacios, Cuba, 24/5/09.

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I send you under another cover, a sample of a limb taken from a cocoa tree killed by a fungus; also a dried up pod attacked by a fungus. The fungus on the branch is spreading very rapidly and doing a lot of damage. As far as I observe it attacks the tree on one of its branches, or half way up the trunk—killing the upper portion first, then it works itself gradually towards the roots and finishes there. If you do not recognise the fungus, would you mind sending it to Mr. Ashby, the Bacteriologist at Hope, and get him to examine it, and let me know what is necessary for the eradication of the evil. At present I am destroying by fire, all infected cocoa trees, but the evil is still spreading. I noticed in your last JOURNAL, that a cocoa planter in St. Ann's is losing a large percentage of his developed cocoa pods. This is caused from excessive moisture and lack of drainage. I experienced the same thing here during and after the usual floods on the sections which were not drained, whilst on those which were well drained I lost none.—St. G. CARVALHO, Costa Rica.

BRANCH NOTES.

Central St. Mary.—*This Branch met on the 6th May, in the Eliot* Schoolroom. There was a fairly large attendance of members and others interested. The agenda for the evening contained subjects of great interest. This being the annual meeting, a report of the Society since its formation was read by the Secretary, which was adopted. All the officers were re-elected for another term of office, as it was unanimously agreed to that they had done their work creditably. The President responded, and asked that the members continue faithfully and united so that good work may be accomplished during the year. Some of the subjects that came up for discussion were: poultry rearing; when should a field of bananas be cut down and replanted? how should cocoa be planted in a banana field so as not to interfere with the bananas after a time? There were healthy discussions on all the subjects. A plan showing how cocoa should be planted in the banana field, was presented by Mr. N. A. Sinclair, and approved of. The method which some persons have of planting the cocoa at the banana root was disapproved of. The points raised concerning the replanting of bananas, were: reduction of grades produced, and roots of bananas growing above ground. New plants are to be put between the old rows. The subscription to the Society for this year is one shilling per member. The Society offered to pay one penny for the head of every woodpecker killed. They commit great ravages on ripe cocoa pods. The Society regrets the removal of Mr. Cradwick from the parish (St. Mary) and framed a resolution to that effect, to be sent to the general Secretary for presentation to the Board of Management. It was proposed and agreed to that an invitation be sent to Mr. John Barclay to give a lecture to the Society at some future date. The meeting adjourned for the first Thursday of July.

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Smithville (Clarendon).—A special meeting of this Branch was held in the School-chapel on Wednesday, 12th May. Since the announcement was made that Messrs. J. Barclay, Secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, J. Hirst and E. Arnett, Instructors, would visit the Society, every member looked forward to their coming with a great deal of interest. These gentlemen, with the exception of Mr. Arnett, who was unable to turn up, on their arrival in the district, visited several holdings. At the meeting there was a large attendance of members and visitors. The President, Mr. W. Reid, occupied the chair. After welcoming Messrs. Barclay and Hirst, and stating that the meeting was convened for distribution of prizes and certificates to members who had been successful in the Prize Holdings Competition, he asked Mr. Barclay to address the meeting. Mr. Barclay stated that the inhabitants of this district are very fortunate in having fertile soils, plenty of springs and good seasons—everything congenial to their welfare. He advised them to develop a thirst after knowledge agricultural, and not to depend upon their climatic advantages so much, but cultivate to the utmost. He pointed out that wood-ash is a valuable fertilizer, one-third of the weight of which is lime, and the other two-thirds potash, and phosphoric acid—that since planting he himself for instance realized the value of this manure and purchased it at 6d. per barrel, yet hundreds of settlers ignorant of its value, let piles of it go to waste. He then referred (a) to the Prize Holdings scheme, and the good it was doing in every direction, and augured its future benefit to the island; (b) to the aim and scope of the Agricultural Society and the duties of the Instructors. He pointed out that three-fourths of the export of the island is got from bananas and cocoa, and

they were fortunate in having the finest conditions possible to grow these except a good road. Before distributing the prizes Mr. Barclay showed that there was only one regular prize—four being consolation prizes—at the former Prize Holdings Competition, as against five regular prizes this year for the district, which gave him very great pleasure. Mr. Robert Pink, third prize in first class; Mr. Jared Thomas divided the fifth prize in the second class, with Mr. John Christian. Mr. Joseph Deacon, first prize in third class; Mr. Fred McLymont, second prize in third class; Mr. Marcus Edwards divided the fourth with Mr. Abraham Spencer of Frankfield. Mr. Hirst in addressing the meeting, said that in comparing the holdings of four years ago with the present, the latter showed a decided improvement on the former. The following resolution was moved by Mr. Hirst and seconded by Mr. Chas. Dove: Resolved, "That this Society request Mr. Barclay to bring before the Board of Management of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, the fertility of this district, the amount of produce it contains, the character of its people as cultivators and solicit their support on any further representations this Society may make to the Government putting forth the need of three miles of main road to connect with the existing main road from Thompson Town to Four Paths." After the addresses a vote of thanks was accorded the gentlemen and the meeting terminated.—J. A. EDWARDS, Secretary.

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Glengoffe (St. Catherine).—This Branch held its regular monthly meeting in the Grateful Hill schoolroom on Tuesday, the 18th May, at 5 p.m. Among the members present were: A. Carey, Esq., President: Messrs. Jas. Hunt, Jas. Thompson, F. Campbell, E. Howell, E. Creary, E. Laurence, W. Turner, H. Hall, T. Creary and others. The minutes of the previous meeting read and confirmed, the Secretary produced and read various items of correspondence. Letter of apology for absence was read from Rev. T. M. Serlock; one from Mr. Ambrose Lescene congratulating the Branch upon its success at the Bybrook Show; one applying for membership from Mr. T. A. Thomas, and others from Mr. Barclay, Secretary Jamaica Agricultural Society. These last settled the question of the members' claims to JOURNALS, which have not been sent to many for three or four months. Mr. Briscoe, Travelling Instructor, was present, and at this point was asked to speak. Going through the district he had seen improvement in the cultivation of cocoa. He explained the Prize Holdings Competition, and dwelt on the sanitary arrangements to be observed. He advocated the cultivation, among others, of the crops which served us faithfully in the past, such as coffee and corn. The bananas should be cultivated on a system to enable them to realize the highest prices. The President thanked Mr. Briscoe on behalf of the members. Mr. Briscoe mentioned with pleasure the facilities offered by the President, and the work of the Secretary and Mr. Felix Campbell, in connection with the late Bybrook Show. These gentlemen received the thanks of the meeting. The question of having all one's holding immediately around one's residence in order to be eligible for the Prize Holdings Competition, was raised by the Secretary, and the meeting was unanimous that this rule needs amendment. A resolution will be sent up to the parent Society from the next meeting, to that effect. The Secretary next proceeded to distribute the prizes won at the show as follows:—Native stallion, Mr. John Richard's "Sunbeam," second, 10/-: small settlers' stallion, Mr. Geo. Carey's "Dewet," first, 15/-; small settlers stallion, Mr. John Richard's "Sunbeam," second, 10/-; saddle mule, Mr. John Harper's "Exhibition," first, 15/-: horse and mule shoes, Mr. F. Campbell, first, 4/; castor oil seeds, Mr. F. Campbell, first, 2/: extracted honey, Mr. F. Campbell, third, 1/-; beeswax, Mr. F. Campbell, second, 2/; Congo peas, Mr. F. Campbell, first, 3/-; jippi-jappa hats, Mr. T. Creary, first, 8/-; jippi-jappa hats, Mr. T. Creary, third, 2/-; jippi-jappa hats, Mr. T. A. Thomas, second, 4/-; yampies, Mr. Jas. Hunt, first, 4/-; cabbages, Grateful Hill School Garden, first, 2/-; native made tools, Mr.

N. Johnson, second, 2/-; copy books, Grateful Hill School, first, Union Jack. The President suggested the advisability of amalgamation between the Glengoffe and the Above Rocks Branches. The meeting delegated himself to visit the latter Branch in company with Mr. Briscoe, on the 21st inst., and to submit the matter. The meeting adjourned till Thursday, the 3rd prox., at 5 pm.

[This Branch, started by Mr. Cradwick a year and a half ago, with fourteen members, has grown to ninety-two, and continues to grow. Mr. Briscoe's week's work in the district deserves the most favourable comment. He visited several holdings, and did work in pruning, etc. On the afternoon of the 19th ult., he led the way in the school garden. He is a worker in the strict sense of the term, and moved off on Saturday, the 22nd, leaving his work behind him to bear fruit.—A. P. HANSON, Secretary.

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Springfield (St. James).—The regular quarterly meeting of this Branch came off at Kensington schoolroom on the 30th April, 1909. Present: J. Jacob Irving, Esq., Vice-president; G. H. Leader, Esq, B.Sc; D. E. Drummond, Asst. Secretary; and several others. In the absence of the President, Rev. J. A. Jones, the Vice-president, J. Jacob Irving took the chair, and after calling the meeting to order, said he held a letter from the esteemed President expressing very deep regret for his unavoidable absence. He next informed the meeting that Mr. D. Adolphus Smart, our respected Secretary, was away from the parish, through which the minutes were deferred. Mr. D. E. Drummond, Asst. Secretary, was called upon to take the minutes. Mr. Irving briefly addressed the meeting and cordially introduced Mr. Leader. Mr. Leader, who was invited to lecture, thanked the Chairman for the kind remarks made of him and said how much he appreciated the honour conferred on him by being invited to lecture to the members of the Society. He proceeded to interest us on manure. He stated that the earth generally runs short of certain constituents in the soil necessary to plants and these must be replaced by manuring. The lecturer dealt lucidly on artificial manures and explained how the earth generally runs short of nitrogen and ammonia, which may be returned to it by the use of sulphate of ammonia and sulphate of potash. On animal manure he next engaged our attention. He showed the different kinds of animal manure by a chart and explained their values. Animal manure, he said, forms a good protection against drought as well as deficiency in the soil. On the said chart, he showed how much is lost by leaving animal manure uncovered. He said although he was here to lecture, yet as a fellow member, he was only giving his experience in practical agriculture and after he was finished he would sit down and listen to our experiences. Continuing, he spoke on cultivation of Irish potatoes and the subject of cotton followed. He said cotton can be grown where nothing else might grow and gave his experience of both Sea Island and Egyptian cotton. He showed that it is right to disinfect seeds before planting, as insects at times do harm; that he had tried solutions of kerosene oil, bitterwood and jeyes and that those seeds soaked in jeyes did best against insects and ants. Tomatoes and turnips came in turn; he explained results and their ready sale in Montego Bay. Just here the lecturer sat down and invited other members to give their experience in cassava and sweet potato, to which Messrs. Gordon, Mason and William Leach responded. At this point, Mr. G. Gordon spoke of his grievances, especially of the recent fruit combine, and how he suffered from bad marketing of bananas. He was ably supported by all present. It was agreed to write the parent Society and place the matter in the hands of their Board. This resolution brought the meeting to a close. The Chairman in rising to propose a vote of thanks to the lecturer said, without making any invidious comparison, it was the soundest lecture they have had for years. A unanimous vote

pleasure it afforded him to be present and promised to return.—D. E. DRUMMOND, Acting Secretary.

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Hector's River (Portland).—A meeting of this Branch (held 1st May), was called to order by Rev. W. P. Sibley, President, and opened with prayer by Mr. E. Jacobs. Members present: there were Rev. A. H. Swift and L. A. Wates, Vice-President; Messrs. F. A. Brown, S. A. Brown, Miss A. McPherson. Rev. E. B. James, of Port Maria, was present as a visitor. The Secretary read minutes of last meeting, after which 17 members took their seats. The following new members were received:—Rev. Elisha Mair, Mr. C. C. Neufville and Mr. E. Solomon (of Solomon, Armstrong & Co., Kingston). At this stage the Chairman introduced the Rev. E. James, who was accorded a hearty welcome by the members present. The Secretary submitted a report of the hat class directors and the full financial statement, also recommendations for the furthering of the industry. The report was adopted and some of the recommendations accepted. The Secretary read communication from Mr. Barclay *re* sample hat. The young hat-makers here found it would not be profitable to make hats of that sort for the price offered. Read letter from Assistant Secretary resigning his post. Mr. Bowen, who was present, was asked to withdraw the letter. Mr. W. C. McKay was appointed second assistant Secretary. The Treasurer, who was unavoidably absent, requested the Secretary to present his monthly statement and also his annual report. The report bore (Mr. F. B. Brown) the auditor's signature, and was accepted. Mr. L. R. McBean gave notice of motion that Rule No. 8 be revised, to read: One shilling per year to the 30th April. On motion of Secretary, all discussion and information *re* Prize Holdings scheme, was deferred to next meeting. On the motion of L. A. Wates. seconded by L. R. McBean, the meeting resolved itself into a Show Committee and reports from the following committees were received, discussed and adopted:—Ground Committee, Prize List Committee, Advertising Committee, Social Committee, Subscription or Finance Committee, Receiving and Care Committee, Music Committee, Committee on Judges. The Secretary read minutes of a meeting held at Manchioneal, whereat the Manchioneal Branch Agricultural Society presented the Hector's River Society the sum of nine pounds, to be used for the furtherance of agriculture. Mr. F. B. Brown was appointed treasurer for the show. It was resolved that any member subscribing 4/ to the show fund be entitled to free admission for himself and another, and that anyone subscribing 10/ will be admitted with his family free of charge. The meeting adjourned to the 5th June, 1909. The banana growers are having a good time of it; fruit is plentiful and the price is fairly good, 2/6 per bunch. Chickens and eggs are scarce; poultry-rearing should have more attention. The weather is favourable to crops.—E. JACOBS, Secretary.

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Guy's Hill (St. Catherine).—The annual meeting of this Branch was held on Thursday, 22nd April, in St. George's Schoolroom, C. B Evelyn, Esq., President, in the chair. Rev. A. E. Lewis and twelve other members were in attendance. Messrs. S. A. Martin and N. Edwards, of Waterford, were also present and became members. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Business which was passed over at last meeting, could not be carried through again for the same reason—the members chiefly connected therewith not being present. The Secretary reported that he had written to Mr. H. Broderick about a ram goat, but had not yet received an answer. The election of officers for the new year followed, and resulted in the re-election of Messrs C. B. Evelyn, C. H. Newman, W. C. Brown and W. E. Watson, as President, Vice-president, Treasurer and Secretary respectively, while the Rev. A. E. Lewis was elected one of the Vice-presidents. The President suggested that the hour for holding meetings be changed to four o'clock during the short

days. The suggestion was well taken and it was decided to change that rule and hold the meetings from September to February at 4 o'clock, and during the other half of the year at 5 o'clock. The Rev. Lewis touched on the subject of holding meetings at Guy's Hill and Mt. Nebo sometimes, and the other members present thought it would have a beneficial effect, but it was thought advisable to leave the matter for further discussion at the next meeting. Rev. Lewis moved that as nothing practically has been done by the committee appointed to deal with the matter of a model garden, and as there has been a new election of officers for the year, the committee be dissolved. This was agreed to and the committee was declared dissolved. The Secretary promised to give a lecture on root crops. The meeting adjourned.—W. E. WATSON, Secretary.

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Albert Town (Upper Trelawny).—The usual monthly meeting of this Branch was held at the above place on Friday, 30th April. There were present: D. R. Wright, Esq., Vice-president, in the chair, Rev. J. N. Swaby and ten others. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. As arising out of the minutes, the Chairman asked about the funds of the Society and was answered by the Secretary. The Secretary next read a communication from Mr. S. G. Rust, of Falmouth *re* the benefit to be derived by the construction of a cart road over "Burnt Hill." This was followed by a warm discussion. On the suggestion of the Chairman, it was unanimously agreed that a committee be formed consisting of the Chairman, Messrs. Brown, Coy, Anson, Heron, Palmer, and J. Campbell. That the Committee be empowered to prepare a memorial in suitable terms, with all the facts available for immediate presentation for signatures. That a copy of the said memorial be sent to His Excellency the Governor and to the member of the parish in Council, as also an acknowledgment to Mr. Rust's letter. *Re* opening of a penny bank also came up for discussion. On the suggestion of the Rev. J. N. Swaby, it was agreed that the manager of the Government Savings Bank be written to for all necessary information. Mr. Palmer suggested that the Secretary of the parent Society be also written to. This was agreed to. It was suggested that the Rev. J. N. Swaby and Mr. A. A. Carter, J.P., be asked to become trustees, Mr. D. R. Wright, treasurer, Mr. P. A Brown, secretary, and Messrs. J. D. Easy and A. A. Carter, auditors. The Ulster Spring Show also came up for discussion. The Secretary expressed at length his views of the coming show, and urged upon the members to co-operate in making the show a huge success. It was moved by Mr. P. A. Brown and unanimously agreed, that the Ulster Spring Society be invited to Albert Town to hold a meeting for the purpose of working up the show. The Secretary made special reference to the St. Ann Show, and of the noble stand the exhibits from Upper Trelawny had taken. Applause.—A. A. PALMER, Secretary.

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Maidstone (Manchester).—A meeting of this Branch was held at Nazareth on Tuesday, May 25th. There were present Rev. J. E. Harvey, President, J. T. Palache, Esq., Agricultural Instructor for the parish, and seventeen others. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Mr. Palache was called to address the meeting. He first dealt with the neglected state of the roads in this and other parts of North-west Manchester. And with a view of having these roads put right, a petition, signed by the Presidents of the three neighbouring Branch Societies, asking that the roads be re-constructed and put in proper order, will, at an early date, be forwarded to the Parish Board. The petition shews among other things, "That whereas the taxpayers of North-west Manchester have contributed from time to time their full share of taxation, and that whereas their pauper-roll was the smallest in the parish they have not had the benefits of good roads as other parts

roads, as it felt that the present roads were a "set-back" to the agricultural interests of the districts concerned. Mr. Palache next spoke on soils and soil cultivation. The land, he said, did not increase in size; there was no more land in Jamaica to-day than when it was discovered, but on the other hand, the population had increased and will ever continue increasing; this being so, man must wake up to the occasion. He must add to the land to repay for what has been removed by the growing crops; he must utilize better methods of cultivation; he must select the best varieties of plants to get increased yields to meet the demands of an ever increasing population. The lecturer concluded a highly interesting and practical address by urging on the meeting to endeavour to save back a portion of the £500,000 that were being sent out of the island yearly for things, most of which could be grown or made here. We need to have better food, he said, and there is no reason why such things as saltfish and salt herrings at our tables, should not in the near future, give place to bacon and eggs. A lively discussion followed, and at the close a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the lecturer. The Secretary proposed an outing for the Association and suggested a visit to Mr. Palache's model farm at Clover, his residence. Mr. Palache encouraged the idea, and named Saturday the 29th, as a suitable day for him. Six members agreed to go and others promised to follow at a later date. The meeting adjourned to meet on June 29th.—J. A. MAXWELL, Secretary.

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Darliston (Westmoreland).—The second annual meeting of the Darliston Branch, was held at the Enfield Schoolroom at 9 a.m. on Friday, 23rd April. Members present: J. W. Mennell, Esq., President; H. D. D. Mennell, Esq., Agricultural Instructor; Captain Coward, Vice-President; R. W. Smith, Treasurer and fourteen others. The minutes of the last meetings (regular and special) were read and confirmed. The Agricultural Instructor then got up and explained why he was not present at the last meeting of the Branch. His explanation was readily accepted by the members present. A letter from Mr. Joseph Stewart *re* roads and show, was read by the Secretary. The Secretary was instructed to reply to Mr. Stewart's letter, thanking him for same, and telling him that this Branch, to the best of its capacity, has been trying to get good roads for the small settlers in connection with this district, to convey their products to market; but it has not yet been successful in achieving its aim. And as for the show, if the funds should cover expenses, the balance will be solely left to the credit of the society and cannot be expended on the roads. The Secretary then read the year's report as follows: "During the year 1908-09 we had four regular meetings and three special ones, making a total of seven meetings. Both regular and special meetings were fully attended. At one of the special meetings, John Barclay, Esq., Secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, was present (29/12/08), and spoke strongly on the following subjects: Shows and Bitterwood, usefulness of Co-operation, Loan Bank, Prize Holdings Competition. Balance in hand for years 1907-09 is £3 3. 8., and which is still in the hands of the Treasurer. Membership for year 1908-09—45. Subscription for year 1908-09—£2 5s. Affiliation fee and stationery, etc.—9/4. As I have already given an accurate account of the working of the jippi-jappa hat-making class of this Branch at the Enfield centre, which was under my supervision during the year, I need not repeat what was already stated; but with one exception, which I think may be gratifying to this Branch and which deserves special notice is, that Miss M. M. Jones, who was taught jippi-jappa hat-making at this centre (Enfield), took first prize in the first division at the Paradise Show held in January last, amongst several exhibits entered in this division." The Secretary read the report of the Show Committee. Submitted and approved. He was then asked to forward the prize-list for the forthcoming show of the Darliston Branch (which is to be held, provided J. R. Williams, Esq., gives his consent, on the Enfield

commons on the 9th of November next) to the Secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society for approval, and to apply for a grant from the parent Society to help out prize-list. The members present re-elected the officers serving last year to serve during the year 1909-10. with one exception, H. D. D. Mennell, Esq., was elected as one of the Vice-presidents. A vote of thanks was moved by Captain Coward to the Secretary and Treasurer for the able way in which each had performed the work entrusted to him during the past year. This was seconded by H. D. D. Mennell, Esq., and carried unanimously. The Secretary replied: "Gentlemen, I take this opportunity of thanking you for the cordial manner in which you have accepted my feeble services rendered to the Darliston Branch during the past year. I think that I have done but very little for the interest of community, but if you think I have, I am very pleased to learn of it. You have again elected me to serve for another year as Secretary of your Branch, and I can assure you that if all be well, I shall try to do my duties faithfully and serve you as best I can." The President congratulated the Branch on having so successfully completed its second year with a full list of members. There had been no falling off in the attendance at their meetings nor in the interest taken in the discussions at those meetings—discussions which tended to so much benefit in the better cultivations carried on. The two classes for teaching the jippi-jappa hat-making had been, as far as instruction was concerned, an unqualified success, but he was not so certain that the benefit derived had been appreciated by those taught. There were between 30 and 40 young women instructed in the industry, all of whom were qualified to make hats; proficiency could only be obtained by practice, and he was afraid that the number of those pupils who now avail themselves of their knowledge may be counted on the fingers of both hands. When he asks some of the pupils why they won't go on hat-making, the reply he receives is the fateful Jamaica watchword: "Can't be bothered." The President hoped that now he had, at the request of the Branch, started upon the understanding of holding an Agricultural Show in the latter part of the year, that the members would each of them fulfil their obligations to carry out their promises and not only do what they have promised, but induce others to give them; and he finally reminded the meeting that these gatherings were successful only so far as the members themselves took interest in the proceedings, and they must not rely solely upon the President and officers for interesting and beneficial results at their meetings. Meeting adjourned to Friday, 28th May, at 9 a.m. at the usual place.—J. H. HEDLEY, Secretary.

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Lamb's River (**Westmoreland**).—The quarterly meeting of the Lamb's River Branch Society was held in the Mt. Hermon Schoolroom on Friday, 2nd April. There were present: Rev. T. B. Prentice, Vice-president, Messrs. H. D. D. Mennell, Agricultural Travelling Instructor; C Wedemire, Ed. Graham, G. Warburton, B. T. Johnson, L. A. Whittingham, A. Gentle, and U. E. Brown. The minutes of the annual general meeting were read and confirmed. A letter was read from Mr. J. Barclay *re* arrowroot, and it was decided to supply him with arrowroot at not less than 3d. per lb. Another letter was also from Mr. Barclay *re* arrowroot tubers, for planting at the Hope Gardens, but the application was rather late for this year, as all the growers have already planted out. Mr. Mennell gave notice of the show to be held in connection with the Darliston Branch Society on the 9th November next, and asked this Society to aid by sending exhibits, so as to make the show a success. To this the meeting agreed. It was agreed not to dispose of the Society's fowls as was suggested at the previous meeting. The Rev. T. B. Prentice consented to keep them as heretofore, on the condition that an Indian Game rooster be brought as early as practicable. A vote of welcome was tendered to the Vice-president on his recent safe arrival back to the island. He replied thanking the meeting for the kind feeling expressed towards him

and his family. He urged the importance of those persons who have learnt to make jippi-jappa hats in the neighbourhood, to continue the work, as he would be able to dispose of all the well-made hats in Scotland. The Secretary called attention to the cultivation of Vanilla in the neighbourhood, and Mr. Mennell promised to get some plants for distribution, at his next visit to the district. The meeting then adjourned to Friday, 9th July.—U. L. BROWN, Secretary.

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Porus (Clarendon).—The regular monthly meeting of this Branch was held in the St. Augustine Schoolroom on Monday evening, May 3rd, at 7 p.m. Rev. W. B. Esson, *President*; Messrs. S. A. Hendricks, L. A. Williams, C. Rowland, L. Hylton, V. N. Magnus, D. Crosbie and 12 others. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The names of two new members were enrolled. The Secretary read a letter from Messrs. Hale, Caird & Co., London, soliciting our future patronage *re* carburised corrugated sheets as a substitute for galvanized sheets. Mr. S. A. Blagrove, one of the members, gave a report on the results of orange rinding. He said, he tried both the sweet and seville and found that it took 800 sweets to give one quart bottle of oil, and less than 800 seville to give the same amount of oil. These were sold at 4/- and 3/- respectively. After a very lengthy discussion on the system of the "labouring class," the President suggested that a debate be settled upon this subject for the next meeting. Debate to run as follows: "Resolved that the proprietors are responsible for the present condition of the peasantry." Mr. V. N. Magnus will also read a paper on an interesting subject at the next meeting. The Agricultural Show which should have come off on the 24th May, is fixed for Thursday, December 30th. The meeting adjourned until June 7th.—C. S. MORRIS, *Assistant Secretary.*

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Santa Cruz Mountains (St. Elizabeth).—The meeting of this Branch on the 21st May, 1909, was called to order at 4.30 p.m. In the absence of the President, the Vice-president occupied the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Four new members enlisted, viz., Messrs. H. Isaacs, C. A. King, E. T. Soares and Mrs. Carvalho. The Treasurer reported that he has paid the annual fee of 5/- from this Branch to the parent Society and received receipt. There were 24 members present at this meeting and a very lively interest was observed in matters agricultural. Dissatisfaction was expressed in connection with the distribution of the prizes in the last competition. The Society thinks that when two competitors tied in, say the second prize, it should not be divided between the two, and thus make it possible for the third prize to carry more pecuniary value to the individual than to those who are winners of the second prize. The certificates to the prize-winners in the last competition were distributed by Mrs. Ashton, and Mr. Palache congratulated the Society on its success in the competition. The Managing Committee was appointed. The names are: Messrs. R. Murray, Geo. R. Smith, P. S. Robertson, W. Farquharson, W. P. Davis, A. T. Lawrence, Joseph Salmon, Duncan Blair, Mrs. Ashton, Mrs. Carvalho, Mrs. Neish and the officers. The Secretary was instructed to have the rules, as read, printed. Mr. Geo. Smith was elected Vice-president. Mr. Palache proposed that the matter *re* spending the balance of the Society's funds, be referred to the Managing Committee to recommend how this money may best be spent to the advantage of the Society. Subject to the approval of the proprietors of Malvern, the site mentioned by the members, be accepted as the show ground for the proposed show. Mr. Palache gave several practical hints *re* the show. It was agreed that the business of the show be left in the hands of the Managing Committee. The show will be open to the world. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned until the third Friday in July.—N. E. SEAL, Secretary.

Lucea (Hanover).—The quarterly meeting of this Branch was held in the Court House here on 8th May, 1909, with C. A. Cover, Esq., B.A., presiding. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Read letter from Rev. J. F. Gartshore resigning his positions as hon. Secretary and Treasurer in consequence of his having been called to take up duties in Kingston, yet assuring the Society of his continued interest in its welfare; same being accepted. the President moved and it was unanimously carried, that a vote of great appreciation of the interest taken in the Society by Mr. Gartshore and the benefits derived therefrom, be recorded on the minutes and Mr. Gartshore be so advised. Moved by Rev. D. A. Rothnie, M.A., and carried *nem. dis.*, that Mr. W. O. Reid be appointed to succeed Mr. Gartshore. Mr. Reid thanked the Society and said he would do what he could in the interest of the Society. Apology for his absence was offered by Rev. B. C. Lumsden, through Rev. J. M. McDonald. The Secretary reported that the membership roll stood at 120, but that there were several intending members. The Secretary stated he had paid the affiliation fee for the current year and that the funds of the Society stood at £3 19s. 6d. Mr. D. A. Webster was elected Chairman of the Brownsville District Committee in the place of Rev. J. F. Gartshore resigned. The President suggested that trees of an ornamental kind might be planted on the Barracks (along the road in order to beautify the walkway and afford shelter) on Arbor Day, and the meeting heartily approved and left the preliminary arrangements in the experienced hands of Mr. C. A. Cover, he having been in correspondence with the Director of Agriculture on the subject. With regard to the Prize Holdings Competition to take place in November of the present year, the President stated that he had been endeavouring to obtain the services of Mr. Cradwick, but as his services were greatly in demand in other parishes, Mr. H. D. D. Mennell, the local Instructor, suggested that Mr. Arnett's services be desired; it was finally decided to leave this matter in the hands of the President. Mr. Mennell was requested to make it widely known as early as possible before he began his usual visits, the dates upon which he would lecture at the different centres in the area of this Society. It was suggested to the meeting that the prizes for the competion be increased, but on considering the financial status of the Society it was decided not to make such increase this time; and also that funds be solicited from private donors to add to the amount now in hand. The Secretary reported that he had had 100 bills printed and posted in the several districts, with full details of the scheme; these had also been published in the newspapers. The President moved, and it was carried unanimously, that the cordial thanks of the Society be conveyed to the newspapers for the interest they took in and the ready assistance offered to the Society in the past, and that they be requested to continue the same kindness in the future. Mr. H. D. D. Mennell reported that as a result of his recent visit, he had been able to secure about 37 competitors for the prizes to be offered in November, of whom 20 being quite new, and that judging by promises he had, he expected that in future visits he would be able to add largely to this number. He also stated that he intended on his next visit to pay particular attention to certain districts: the chairman of each district will be advised in advance.—W. O. Reid, Secretary.

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Santa Cruz (St. Elizabeth).—The above Society held its bi-monthly meeting on Thursday, 18th May, beginning at 5.30 p.m. An apology for absence was received from the President. There were present ten members, the Travelling Instructor and two visitors. In the absence of the President and Vice-president, Mr. G. F. Miller was called to the chair. The minutes of the March meeting were read and confirmed; after which the report of the joint committee meeting held at Bethlehem on the 16th April, to arrange for the show to be held on the 9th November, was read [illegible] moved and Mr. F. A. Williams seconded, a

vote of thanks to the committee for the trouble taken in assisting to arrange satisfactorily for the show to be held in connection with the Santa Cruz Mountains Branch. A very interesting discussion in reference to the recent disease among mules and horses in the district came on, in the course of which the Instructor brought to light many instructive facts, carefully dealing with the disease and its immediate treatment. The awarding of marks in connection with the Prize Holdings Competition, called for its share of attention. In reference to this, the meeting was informed that the judges have full power to mark, according to the situation and local conditions of the holdings. A few examples were given. This formed the basis of a very interesting and instructive lecture on plants; their mode of obtaining food, and the management of the soil in order to secure a successful growth and the best possible return from any crop. The lecturer showed that the schools and school-gardens provide this agricultural knowledge for boys while men must look to the Agricultural Societies for it. He regretted very much that his anticipation of large attendances at these Society meetings were often disappointing. He urges every man to do his best to improve the condition of things to such an extent that the importation of foodstuff may be considerably lessened and thus help to keep more money in the country to enrich it. At the conclusion of the address, Mr. H. W. Miller moved a well merited vote of thanks to the lecturer. This was seconded by Mr. Birthwright and supported in glowing terms by Messrs. J. F. Miller and C. A. Robinson. In returning thanks Mr. Palache suggested that the Society procure a plot of land for a model garden, to which he would gladly give whatever help he can and supply a few new varieties of seeds. Mr. H. W. Miller then moved a resolution to have the matter brought up at the next meeting. This was seconded by the Secretary. The meeting then adjourned until the third Thursday in July.—S. A. BLYTHE, Secretary.

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Trinity Ville (St. Thomas).—The usual monthly meeting of this Branch was held on the 7th May, 1909. There were present Messrs. W. A. R. Carr, President, and thirteen others. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed, as also the special one held on 12th April. On the motion of Messrs. Edman and Carr, Messrs. Robert Johnson, Hy. Moore, Fred. Graham, John A. Bogle and David A. Ford, were enrolled as new members. Subscription was received from two members. The following resolution was carried unanimously on motion of Messrs. Edman and Carr: "This Society regrets to learn of the death of Mr. Edward Grant, one of its members and of long standing, being Treasurer for some time, the sad event having occurred on the 27th April, 1909, and as a token of respect this meeting do adjourn for five minutes. To his bereaved family this Society tenders its sincere condolence, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded accordingly." Mr. Carr spoke in very appreciative terms: Mr. Grant he said, whatever he owned was got purely off agriculture, which we should be proud of. Read letters from Mr. Briscoe (a) *re* fowls; it was agreed to delay purchase till then. (b) That he will visit this Branch on 3rd June in connection with the Prize Holdings Competition. Read letters from Mr. Barclay (a) acknowledging receipt of resolution regarding reports of Instructors and that he shall refer same to the Director of Agriculture and ask that Messrs. Briscoe and Cradwick's reports be published in future along with the reports of the Society's Instructors. (b) Forwarding posters with reference to the Prize Holdings Competition. (c) Of his visits to the western parishes. (d) Receipts for entry fees Prize Holdings Competition. (e) Branch Notes. The following letter was also read from the Assistantt Colonial Secretary: "I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 16th instant, enclosing a copy of a resolution recently passed by the Trinity Ville Branch Agricultural Society, with regard to the conversion into a carriage road, of the road from White River Bridge

to Mt. Vernon and the proposed construction of a light railway in St. Thomas. I am to point out, however, that the Governor has not up to the present, authorized more than the survey for such a railway." A resolution was passed on motion of Messrs. Stewart and J. A. Telfer, in connection with the publication of Branch Notes in the JOURNAL. Meeting adjourned. The next day (Saturday) the JOURNAL came out, there being a lengthy Branch Note, and from certain notes also published concerning Branch Notes in general and a letter from Mr. Barclay, I have as Secretary, assumed the responsibility of not forwarding the resolution.—J. T. EDMAN, Secretary.

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Above Rocks (St. Catherine).—The annual general meeting of this Branch met in the St. Mary's Schoolroom on Friday, May 21st, 1809. Present: Mr. W. R. Rainford, President, Miss A. M. Green, and twenty other members. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The rules of the Society were read. The Secretary read a report of the year's work of the Society, including a full list of the members whose subscriptions for the year had been paid up, with a summary of their attendance at the meetings, and a full account of the subjects discussed and the objects accomplished for the year. A vote of thanks to the Secretary was unanimously passed. The Secretary explained that the next item on the agenda was the election of officers for the ensuing year, but in view of a proposition laid before the meeting by a deputation from the Glengoffe Branch of the Agricultural Society, he moved that the election be deferred to a later period. The motion was carried and Mr. Alexander Grey outlined a scheme which had been considered by his Society. He said that the spheres in which the two Societies—Glengoffe and Above Rocks—laboured were practically the same, and that it would be far more effective to have one large Society than two small ones working in a limited area. It had, therefore, been decided by his Society to ask the Above Rocks Society to combine the two Branches, and make one strong Society. The Secretary spoke in support of Mr. Carey's suggestions, pointing out the various advantages which would result from the amalgamation. He hoped the members would give the subject cereful thought, and express their opinion on the matter. He moved formally "That in the opinion of this meeting it would be advantageous to all the agricultural interests of this district that the Glengoffe and Above Rocks Agricultural Societies should amalgamate, and that steps should at once be taken to promote this end." Mr. Robert Creary seconded, and the resolution was supported by Messrs. D. T. Creary, Briscoe, Rainford, Lobban, Cushnie and others. Mr. E. B. Galloway opposed the motion. In his opinion the interests of the Society would best be served if the two Branches existed separately. After a lengthy discussion the resolution was put to the vote and carried *nem. con.*, Mr. Galloway declining to vote. Delegates were appointed to attend the next meeting of the Glengoffe Branch to make final arrangements for the amalgamation, Mr. Briscoe then addressed the meeting. He spoke principally on the subject of the Prize Holdings Competition, advising the members how to cultivate to fulfil the necessary conditions. Votes of thanks to Mr. Briscoe and Mr. Carey were unanimously passed, and the meeting adjourned. There has been some rain within the last few days, but the usual May rains are missed. Crops are, however, looking well. Miss Gordon lost a fine colt the other day, and Mr. Rainford's mule broke its neck while in a loaded dray going to Bog Walk. A few days later the same gentleman lost a splendid colt off "Rosyth," the mare having foaled near a small stream into which the colt apparently struggled. Materials for the new St. Mary's Church are being collected, and it is hoped that in a short time the building itself will be reared. The tournament on the 29th of July, in aid of the funds, is creating unparalleled enthusiasm, and promises to be a great success. Miss Thompson is the new assistant teacher at Allman Hill, in place of Miss Rowe, retired.—W. L. F. VASSALL, Secretary.